Encouraging non-conventional energy sources

3097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generated through non-conventional energy sources in India is very low as compared to other nations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plans to encourage non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Over 8000 MW grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity has been set up in the country as on 31.03.2006. Already, the country is fourth in the world in the installation of wind power aggregating around 5310 MW.

(c) and (d) The aim is to establish around 10 per cent power generation capactiy through renewable power during the 10th and 11th Plan periods, corresponding to 10,000 MW. During the first four years of the 10th Plan period 4650 MW renewable power generation capacity has been added whereby the target of 3075 MW for the entire 10th Plan period has already been exceeded by as much as 50 per cent. To encourage investment in renewable power, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided which include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation and concessional taxes & duties. In addition, preferential tariff is being given to renewable power in most potential states.

Cost of solar energy

3097. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of solar energy generation in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce the high cost of solar energy and make it more viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total of 32 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants have been installed in the country with financial support from the Government.

These plants, with aggregate capacity of 2.1 Megawatt, are estimated to generate about 2.5 million units of electricity in a year. In addition, around 13 lakh decentralized off-grid solar photovoltaic systems aggregating to about 86 Megawatt capacity have been installed in the country.

(b) The Government has taken several measures to reduce the cost of solar energy systems, which include: (i) research and development to improve their performance and reduce the consumption of materials, (ii) subsidy on selected solar energy systems; (iii) concessional import duty on some of the raw materials, components and products; (iv) excise duty exemption; and (v) 80% accelerated depreciation in the first year etc.

Small Hydro Electric Projects for Development of NER

†3099. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plan to set up small hydro electric projects for the development of North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those projects which have taken special assistance from the Ministry in the last five years; State-wise; and

(d) the number of such projects completed and by when the remaining projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) 968 potential sites for small hydro power (upto 25 MW) aggregating abount 2230 MW have been identified in the North Eastern Region of which 119 have been developed with an aggregate capacity of 169 MW so far. In addition, 76 projects with an aggregate capacity of 133 MW that are under different stages of implementation. A scheme for the grant of central financial assistance for identification of new potential sites and the preparation of a state perspective plan is in operation.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of projects that have received central financial assistance from the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources during the last five years *i.e.*, 2001-02 to 2005-06 and their status are given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.